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mostly from old prints, and contains a bibliography. It may be highly recommended as a background for the study of this region. The salient points of the story of the Lakes are emphasized, but "no minute and exhaustive chronicle has been attempted."

ROBERT MARSHALL BROWN.

**England and the English from an American Point of View.**

By Price Collier. 434 pp. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1909. \$1.50.

Mr. Collier has a style which pleases; it is what one may call very readable, though his writing at times has a vivacity which sets the reader questioning whether the plain facts of the case are not over seasoned with mere style. He has, as it appears, lived with the English, has seen and studied them when they have been on guard and off guard. He has the fashion of writing with a convincing air, and if you yourself have seen the English in their island home and have received impressions which you could not well classify and arrange, you will be helped by Mr. Collier's lucid analysis.

His "First Impressions" are, indeed, strikingly presented; but, perhaps, like most writers who undertake the portrayal of the manners and customs—all that, indeed, goes to make up the life of a people other than the writer's own—he sees much that goes to make up what we call national traits with eyes and judgment too serious. He is not one of them, and is often looking "at them rather than with them."

As a "Land of Compromises," Mr. Collier finds here much to criticise in state, church and social life; but he admits that "it is difficult with such people to discover what are their ideals, what are their real likes and dislikes."

Though writing a chapter on the topic "Are the English dull," he answers this, as a question, with an emphatic negative, and he takes occasion to praise what he calls their "steadiness," which many are inclined to interpret as dullness. The author is one who has been trained to see far more than the average person can or does see of the environment in which he may be placed. He is alert both to see, to hear, and to form judgments. There is an excellent chapter on "Sport," as there is an illuminating one on "An English Country Town."

E. L. STEVENSON.

**The Lombard Communes.** A History of the Republics of Northern Italy.

By W. F. Butler. 495 pp., Illustrations, Maps, and Index. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, 1906. \$3.75.

It is not an easy task to find one's way through the period of Italian history here under consideration. There were great general movements in those centuries which one can well and truly call peninsular or Italian, but there was so much of local coloring, so much that was strikingly individual in the social and political life of the many city-states, especially of central and northern Italy, that very clear and logical thinking and planning is essential for the one who successfully tells the story of the period. Professor Butler has done his work remarkably well. He has read his Muratori, Lanzani, Ferrari and others with care, though not always agreeing with the conclusions of the last two named. To the theory by these advanced,—a theory very generally accepted,—that the internal feuds of the Italian cities of the period were the results of an antagonism between the civic nobility, who had imbibed Roman ideas, and the country nobility, forced to come and live within the walls of the cities, Professor Butler